

REMARKS

Claims 20, 22-24 and 26-44 are pending in the present application. Claim 44, which was newly added in the prior-filed amendment after Final Action filed with an RCE, is amended. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. Accordingly, claims 20, 22-24 and 26-44 are currently under consideration.

No new matter is added by the amendment to claim 44. The amendment deletes the limitation of “wherein the water-soluble carrier is selected from simple and complex carbohydrates.” Support for the amendment is found in originally filed claims 20 and 25 and at page 13, line 36 of the specification.

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested prior to further examination on the merits.

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to ***Deposit Account No. 03-1952*** referencing docket no. **263742002802**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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